

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the above-identified Office Action dated July 22, 2004, claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the specification to include updated serial number information for referenced applications in the disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the amendments.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stubbs et al (“Stubbs”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

The present invention addresses efficient order processing in a manufacturing environment. As recited in independent claims 1 and 10, the present invention includes utilizing a hierarchical definition language with run-time control capability to represent and control a box line manufacturing process of computer systems in a unified manner. Independent claim 17 similarly recites the provision of a state file for run-time information of a box line manufacturing process of computer systems.

Through the present invention, a persistent structure is provided that can be stopped and restarted at arbitrary points for representation and control of a unified manufacturing process with an abstraction from the complexities of the underlying implementation. Also provided is a tool, the sequencer, that understands this language, “pushes” tasks to their specified destination, monitors tasks to ensure successful completion in the allotted time, and updates the control file as necessary with real-time control information. The sequencer architecture can understand an order that contains multiple shippable units to meet the particular needs of the manufacturing

process. Further, a tool, the listener, runs on all applicable targets under all required operating systems. The listener, based on communication with the sequencer, starts tasks, monitors tasks, and sends results back to the sequencer utilizing a message protocol for communication. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art of Stubbs fails to anticipate or even suggest the present invention.

The cited art of Stubbs addresses the modelling of computer-controlled test and measurement systems as data flow diagrams of topologically interconnected resources. Stubbs illustrates a single device under test (DUT) that is connected to one computer, multiple signal generating instruments, and a measurement instrument (see Fig. 1). While the Examiner asserts that Stubbs discloses a plurality of systems under test (SUTs), the elements of R16, R18, and R20 pointed to by the Examiner in making the assertion are not taught or suggested as SUTs. Rather, these elements merely refer to rule numbers for the connection lines with which they are shown in Fig. 16. The Examiner further asserts that Figures 16 and 19 teach the recited at least one server networked to the plurality of SUTs. In fact, these figures show an interrelation of tasks and wholly fail to teach or suggest the recited at least one server.

Thus, the system arrangement in Stubbs is not taught or suggested as a box line manufacturing process of computer systems, as recited in independent claims 1 and 17, and it further fails to teach or suggest a plurality of systems under test (SUTs), at least one server networked to the plurality of SUTs, and a local control system coupled to the plurality of SUTs and networked to the at least one server, as recited in independent claim 10. Without teaching or suggesting a plurality of SUTs or a box line manufacturing process of computer systems, there can be nothing to teach or suggest a control system utilizing a hierarchical definition language with run-time control capability to represent and control such an arrangement in a unified manner, as recited by the Applicant in the independent claims. Thus, Applicant respectfully

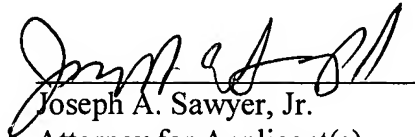
submits that Stubbs fails to teach, show, or suggest efficient order processing in a manufacturing environment, as recited in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 17 are not anticipated or suggested by the cited art of Stubbs. Applicant further respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-9, 11-16, and 18-20 include the features of one of the independent claims while adding further features and thus, these claims are respectfully submitted as allowable for at least those reasons stated hereinabove. With more particular regard to dependent claims 9, 16, and 19, Applicant recites the provision of a state file in XML. While the Examiner has cited lines from columns 2 and 7 of Stubbs in rejecting these claims, the generic reference to the use of source code in any convenient language by Stubbs refers to the sequence of code to control a data flow process. Stubbs is silent regarding the provision of a state file in XML, as recited in the present invention. In a similar manner, Stubbs is silent regarding the recited provision of the state file in an MTSN directory, as recited in dependent claims 7, 15, and 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of the recited claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Respectfully submitted,
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Date


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